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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM Foundation posts record fund-raising year" (1996). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 14281.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/14281>

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Ensuring a Tradition of Excellence

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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

Aug. 29, 1996

UM FOUNDATION POSTS RECORD FUND-RAISING YEAR

MISSOULA —

Loyal donors and hard-working volunteers helped The University of Montana Foundation record the best financial year in its 25-year history.

Preliminary figures show a 124 percent increase in funds raised over the previous year, with outright gifts totalling \$12.7 million for the fiscal year just ended, up from \$5.7 million in fiscal 1995.

The increase can be attributed to a number of factors, said Larry Morlan, UM Foundation executive director. UM's Capital Campaign, "Ensuring a Tradition of Excellence," generated gifts of \$3.8 million; annual fund contributions through phonathons, the Missoula Business Drive and direct mail were up 56.7 percent; estate gifts and bequests increased 38 percent; and the number of donors jumped 30 percent to 18,840 individuals and organizations.

"While the foundation's greatest year is mainly due to the generosity of our donors, who believe in the strength of this University, hard work by volunteers and staff keyed the outstanding results," Morlan said.

He also lauded the volunteer work of Phyllis Washington, Capital Campaign national chairperson and Harold Gilkey, president of the UM Foundation Board.

The UM Foundation, established in 1951, is separate from The University of Montana—Missoula as an independent organization. As the University's official development

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office, it is charged with raising funds for priorities targeted by the UM administration, then managing and distributing those funds.

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Specialized western, dailies, Chronicle of Philanthropy

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